



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAREER A-10 PILOT NAMED AIR GUARD COMMANDER

Will lead Connecticut's largest Air National Guard unit and only flying unit.

BRADLEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, East Granby, Conn. -- Maj. Gen.

Thaddeus J. Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National

Guard, announces that Col. John P. Swift III, took command of the 103rd Fighter Wing at a change of command ceremony held at the base recently.

Martin, presided over the ceremony, handing over the reigns as he passed the unit's colors from the outgoing commander, Col. Daniel L. Peabody.

"Jack has earned this position through his outstanding performance, his leadership and dedicated service to the Connecticut Guard and the U.S. Air Force," said Martin.

Swift, 47, will lead the 103rd Fighter Wing, composed of more than 1,000 full and part-time Airmen. He will oversee all aspects of base operations, aviation, maintenance, and support operations for the Bradley wing and its geographically separated squadron, the 103rd Air Control Squadron, in Orange.

Swift entered the military as an Air Force Academy cadet in 1977. Upon graduation from the academy, undergraduate pilot training, and fighter lead training, he began his A-10 flying career.

(MORE)

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Following A-10 Thunderbolt II training at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB), Ariz., he was assigned to England AFB, La. as an A-10 Pilot in 1983. From 1986 to 1988, he served as an A-10 Weapons Officer at two different Royal Air Force Bases in the United Kingdom.

Swift left active duty Air Force in 1989 and continued his service in the military by joining the Connecticut Air National Guard the same year. During the next ten years, he served as the 103rd Fighter Group Operations Plans Officer, the Weapons and Tactics Chief, and as the Standardization and Evaluation Chief. He has held several positions in the wing's 118th Fighter Squadron, including A-Flight Commander, Operations Officer, and then culminating with its command. Col. Swift then earned an appointment to attend the United States Naval War College, Newport, R.I. in 1999. Upon his return to Connecticut in 2000, he served as the 103rd Maintenance Squadron Commander until 2003 when he became the 103rd Fighter Wing Vice Commander. In August of 2004, he assumed command of Bradley's largest single unit, the 103rd Maintenance Group.

"It was nice to be able to sit with family, rather than stand in formation," said Senior Airman John P. Swift IV, Colonel Swift's son, who is an assistant all-hazards plans specialist in the Joint Forces Headquarters.

Swift resides in Enfield with his wife JoAnn and family.

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